

many "runs," "slurs" and "grace notes" out of otherwise good tunes, that they add a list of the tunes they would propose for the Psalms, and where they are to be found harmonized as they would propose to use them, and also a few pages of blank paper with any questions they might wish to ask, and for any suggestions such precentor or choir-leader might wish to make. I think that in this way they would receive a great many valuable suggestions, and I am sure that the precentors would gladly do what they could to assist in making the book worthy of the Church as far as the music is concerned. The hymns may be safely left to the Presbyteries, but there are very many in the Church much more competent to select music than the ministers or elders, who may have a chance of criticising the work at Presbytery or General Assembly meetings, and I think the precentors, or choir-leaders, ought to have a chance to give their opinion on it before it is issued, both as to the choice of tunes, and as to the style in which the book will be published.

CHORISTER.

ST. DAVID'S AND ST. ANDREW'S CHURCHES, ST. JOHN, N.B.

A correspondent of the Stratford "Herald" on a trip to the Atlantic coast sends to that paper the following account of two of the churches rebuilt since the great fire of 1877:

"Gentle reader, if you have not seen St. John, N.B., before the fiery ordeal of two summers ago, it is scarcely possible that you can form any adequate conception of the extent and frightful ravages of that conflagration, extending over upwards of two hundred acres, being the principal portion of the city. Over this extensive area the rolling fiery wave rushed along, gathering strength from the fury of the ever-increasing hurricane, which, like the sweeping wing of the Destroying Angel, carried ruin and devastation in its track—nor missed anything however humble, nor respected anything however sacred, nor deviated from its headlong course, be the object ever so powerful, until the last sanctuary of the doomed city which lay in the path of the destroyer was consigned to utter destruction, and its very ashes hurled and scattered on the wings of the whirlwind and submerged in the depths of the Atlantic.

In this frightful conflagration two-thirds of the city churches were levelled with the ground, and the sacred associations of many generations blotted out from the earth. The records of the joys of youth, beauty and manhood, with the holy reminiscences of "other days and years" never to return, coupled with the altars of our common humanity and the faces of our holiest aspirations—all! all! sacrificed and immolated in one undistinguishable ruin. Brave men who never quailed in the face of danger suppressed their intruding sighs, whilst manly tears rolled down the cheek which death and the carnage of war had failed to moisten. Whilst the ministers of religion with weary step and downcast mien found occasion for the exercise of that faith and trust in God which within these, alas! now prostrate edifices they so often and so earnestly inculcated on others—and realized the great gospel truth of manifesting their faith by their works. They went immediately to work, and they were not disappointed, as the result amply attests—that in the important city of St. John are to be seen this day Temples of the Living God, raised on the smouldering ashes of the former churches, such as few cities in the Dominion can boast.

"The writer had the gratification of partaking of the Lord's Supper in St. David's (Dr. Waters), one of those new churches—a splendid edifice embracing all the latest improvements, with a magnificent organ and a well-appointed choir—on the same platform with and immediately behind the minister. This is a great improvement on the 'up-stair' arrangement, as the choir is in front of the congregation and near the officiating clergyman, which arrangement needs only to be seen to be appreciated. The services of the day were more than ordinarily impressive. The sermon before communion was a grand display of God's love to man, from the text John xvii. 27: "For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God." This was a day which we hope will remain a green spot in the hearts and recollections of many present, and we cannot close these few remarks without congratulating the congregation of St. David's and their excellent pastor on the enviable position which they now occupy in

temporal things as well as in spiritual things, and on the order and gravity with which the whole services of this solemn sacrament has been administered, and finally if, gentle reader, you have at any time a Sabbath to spare in the 'Queen City' of the Maritime Provinces, do not fail to go to St. David's, and we promise that you will both see and hear what cannot fail to impress you for good.

"Having had but one Sabbath in St. John, we went in the evening to new St. Andrew's—the Rev. Mr. Mitchell's late of Montreal. The internal arrangements of this beautiful new church are of the most chaste and perfect in the Dominion. It is a gorgeous edifice, finished irrespective of cost. The sitting arrangement is perfect, every one so situated that they face the expansive platform on which the choir and the organ are placed, and on the front of which is the reading desk. Not the old-fashioned *cop* styled pulpit, but simply a handsome reading desk with an ample Gothic chair behind for the officiating minister. This is a very large house, capable of accommodating at least 1,200 to 1,400 people, and so far as we could see the church was crowded. If it is a legitimate thing for congregations to feel proud of their minister, the Presbyterians of St. John, New Brunswick, may well indulge their inclination. From the Rev. Mr. Mitchell we got a racy, brilliant discourse, founded on that thrilling episode in the life of the bold and daring servant of God, the prophet Elijah's meeting with the bad, truculent and depraved king, Ahab. Elijah's appeal to the Living God against the incantations of the idolatrous prophets of Baal, the preacher handled with consummate skill, rendering the subject intensely interesting, and deducing from it pertinent lessons applicable to the correction of the various fanaticisms prevailing, which are so prevalent in the present age, such as the delusions of Spiritualism, Mormonism, and the nameless hosts of 'isms' which perverted minds substitute for the true religion as founded on the Word of God as contained in the Holy Scriptures.

"The Presbyterian clergymen of St. John are a credit to the Church to which they belong. There is no position in life which involves closer relations than that of pastor and people. Therefore a good, acceptable clergyman may be truly reckoned one of the great blessings in this life, and the reverse is a continual source of unhappiness—a withering of the grand amenities of spiritual life, and of the intercourse so necessary to the healthful tone of practical religion in the world.

"We should have been pleased to see the other Presbyterian churches in this city, but hope to have that pleasure on another occasion, when we shall be delighted to hear Rev. Dr. McCrae, whose first sermon we had heard in his father's church in Stornoway—we shall not say how many years ago."

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.—This Presbytery met in Knox Church, St. Thomas, at nine o'clock on 22nd ult., the Moderator presiding. Messrs. D. L. Munro, Hugh Cameron and A. Smith, students, having completed their theological curriculum, were licensed to preach the gospel. Calls from Watford and from Burns' Church and Moore Line to Rev. Mr. McAlmon, were presented, the Watford congregation offering \$700 and a house, and the other congregation a salary of \$700 and manse. Dr. Proudfoot was appointed to moderate in a call to London East, when called upon to do so. Rev. Mr. Ferguson tendered his resignation of Lobo and Caradoc churches, on account of ill health. The resignation was ordered to lie on the table, and the pulpit to be supplied until the next regular meeting of the Presbytery. The afternoon session opened at two o'clock. Rev. Mr. Beamer asked for a commission to investigate the state of financial affairs in his congregation. Rev. Messrs. Murray, Mungo Fraser, McDonald of Belmont, and Colin Macdougall and Farquhar Campbell, elders, were appointed a commission to visit Springfield, for this purpose, next Tuesday at ten o'clock and Aylmer at two. Leave was granted the congregations of Glencoe and Kintyre to have calls moderated. A committee was appointed to visit the Adelaide church with the view of inquiring into financial matters. It was resolved to grant a letter of recommendation to Mr. Lawrence, late catechist at Adelaide, who has removed to the Manitoba Presbytery. Rev. Mr. Parsons, of the M. E. Church, St. Thomas, was invited to sit as a corresponding member. A request was made from Napier, Alvinston, Brooke and Euphemia to be united under one charge. A deputation was ap-

pointed to further the views of the requisition. A call addressed to Mr. McClintock, from the congregation of Mandaumin, offering a stipend of \$600 and manse, was presented, and was accepted. His induction is to take place at Mandaumin, on 5th August, at 11 a.m. Mr. Duncan to preach and preside, Mr. Hector Currie to address the minister, and Mr. McRobie the people. Steps were taken to carry out the instructions of the General Assembly in regard to supplemented congregations. The Presbytery then adjourned, after resolving to meet again in the First Presbyterian Church, London, on the third Tuesday of September. —G. CUTHBERTSON, *Pres. Clerk*.

PRESBYTERY OF MAITLAND. This new Presbytery held its first meeting in the Presbyterian church, Wingham, on Tuesday, the 15th of July. Rev. S. Jones, Brussels, Moderator, appointed by the General Assembly, took the chair. An extract from the Record of the General Assembly anent the formation of the Presbytery was read, after which the Moderator constituted the Presbytery. Rev. H. McQuarrie was appointed clerk *pro tem*. On the roll being made up it was found that the Presbytery consisted of seventeen ministers, five vacancies, and two mission stations. Rev. S. Jones was re-appointed Moderator for the next six months and the Rev. R. Leask was appointed clerk of the Presbytery. Messrs. Brown and McCrae were empowered to moderate in calls at Brussels, Gorrie and Fordwich respectively, before next meeting of Presbytery if the people are ready. The Home Mission report was given in by Mr. Leask. The Presbytery's Home Mission Committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Cameron, Murray, McQuarrie, Wilkins and Leask, ministers, Dickson and Strachan, elders. On account of a misunderstanding by vacant congregations regarding Probationers, it was moved by Mr. Wilkins and agreed to, that when any vacant congregation obtains permission to provide its own supply during a portion of the time it is without a pastor, the days on which the pulpit shall be at their disposal shall be at once designated by the Presbytery's Home Mission representative, and the congregation shall be responsible to the Presbytery for the payment of any one who may be regularly appointed to supply the pulpit on any Sabbath other than those thus designated. Representatives from Pine River and Chalmers' Church, Kincardine Township, were heard regarding the state of those congregations, when it was agreed that on account of the debt under which these congregations are labouring, the Presbytery give partial supply till next meeting of Presbytery. Several members of Presbytery agreed to give a Sabbath. There was read a resolution passed at a congregational meeting held in St. Andrew's Church, Kincardine, asking leave of the Presbytery to mortgage the Church property to the extent of \$225. Mr. Bone was heard in support of the resolution. The request was granted. Mr. Wilkins gave notice of a motion anent election of commissioners to the General Assembly. A Committee was appointed consisting of Messrs. Wilkins, McQuarrie and Leask, ministers, Dickson and Ferguson, elders, to estimate the expenses of the Presbytery for the year and to report at next meeting. Resolutions anent Home Missions adopted by the General Assembly were read. It was agreed to appoint deputations to visit all the congregations and mission stations receiving aid from the Home Mission Fund with a view to the reduction of the grant. The deputations are as follows: Messrs. Brown and Jones, to visit Cranbrook and Ethel; Messrs. McCrae and McNaughton, to visit Gorrie and Fordwich; Messrs. Cameron and Taylor, to visit Langside; Messrs. Murray and Sutherland, to visit Pine River; Messrs. Leask and Leitch, to visit East Ashfield and Fordyce. Mr. Dickson moved, and it was agreed to, that a collection be taken up in all our congregations before the next meeting of the Presbytery, to defray the expenses of the delegates to the General Assembly. It was agreed to ask the Presbytery of Huron for a share of the funds now in the treasury of the Home Mission of that Presbytery. The next meeting was appointed to be held in Knox Church Kincardine, on Tuesday, the 16th day of September at 2.30 o'clock p.m. —R. LEASK, *Pres. Clerk*.

WE see that a new Bishop of Jerusalem has been appointed. The man chosen is Rev. Dr. Joseph Barclay, Rector of Stapleford, Hertford, England. The appointment was made on the recommendation of the Earl of Shaftesbury.